

OPIOID ABUSE IN NORTH CAROLINA



Opioid abuse is a serious issue that claims the life of a North Carolinian every day and impacts many more through motor vehicle accidents. The economic burden is also staggering, costing the country billions of dollars every year.



DRUG OVERDOSES CLAIMED THE LIVES OF 1,483 NORTH CAROLINIANS IN 2015. Half of these deaths were the result of prescription opioids. (More than cocaine, heroin, etc.)



In 2015, **89 OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS WERE DISPENSED** for every **100 N.C. RESIDENTS**.



North Carolina has experienced a **350% INCREASE** in drug overdose deaths since **1999**.



In May 2017, Chief Justice Mark Martin accepted the invitation to join the **REGIONAL JUDICIAL OPIOID INITIATIVE**, a working group of regional state court officials created to develop multi-state solutions and best practices for addressing the nationwide opioid addiction crisis.



Opioid-related deaths have **INCREASED BY 73%** over the past decade.



Drug overdose causes more deaths than motor vehicle accidents or firearms, and results in **MORE THAN 20,000 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS PER YEAR**.



A September 2016 analysis by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **ESTIMATES THE TOTAL "ECONOMIC BURDEN"** of prescription opioid abuse in the United States at **\$78.5 BILLION PER YEAR**.



Opioid addiction is a gateway to heroin use. N.C. heroin-related deaths have **INCREASED BY 884% SINCE 2010**.



According to the North Carolina Division of Prisons, **53% OF INMATES HAVE SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER**.



According to a CBS report, four N.C. towns (Wilmington, Fayetteville, Hickory, and Jacksonville) are in the **TOP 20 NATIONALLY FOR OPIOID ABUSE**.